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PATENTS  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Applicants : Andrew C. Gilbert et al.  
Application No. : 09/981,565  
Confirmation No. : 7706  
Filed : October 17, 2001  
For : SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR BID/OFFER  
SPREAD TRADING  
Group Art Unit : 2164

New York, New York 10020  
June 20, 2002

Box MISSING PARTS  
Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

PETITION FOR FILING WHEN AN  
INVENTOR'S LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE REFUSES TO SIGN  
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.47

The signature of a legal representative made on behalf of one of the two deceased inventors for which a patent is sought on the above-entitled invention has been secured.

The one inventor whose signature has not been secured was present at the World Trade Center, Tower 1, on September 11, 2001. Because of the attack on the World Trade Center, that inventor is missing and presumed dead, and his legal representative (his wife) has been identified.

A diligent effort has been made to secure the signature of the legal representative. As proof, attached is a file copy of a January 15, 2002 letter from the undersigned

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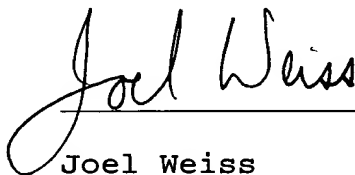
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to the legal representative that was sent by Federal Express along with a Declaration And Power Of Attorney in connection with this patent application. The legal representative of the deceased failed to execute and return the Declaration And Power Of Attorney on behalf of the deceased inventor in this case.

Accordingly, because today is the last day to file an executed Declaration in order to avoid abandonment of the application pursuant to a Notice To File Missing Parts Of Nonprovisional Application, one of the legal representatives, on behalf of one of the deceased inventors, is concurrently filing herewith under 37 C.F.R. § 1.47 her executed Declaration and all required fees in connection with this application.

Should the other legal representative subsequently execute the Declaration, her executed Declaration will be forwarded to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joel Weiss". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Joel Weiss  
Registration No. 44,398  
Attorney for Applicants

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